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quarters for Regins

Music Boxes.

28 Eleventh Street,

Wheeling, W. Va.

## A COMMITTEE OF TEN ON THE REASSESSMENTS

Held at the Chamber of Commerce Meeting Last Evening, and an Effort

TO SECURE MANY REDUCTIONS

Will be Made Before the County Board, as Board of Equalization and Appeals.

TO GO AFTER CONVENTIONS.

Committee Appointed to Secure Democratic and Republican State Gatherings.

THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Resulted in President Quarrier and Secretary Haslett Being Honored Again.

The meeting of the Wheeling chamber of commerce last night was, by far, the most important gathering it has had in many months. The chamber honored itself by honoring President Quarrier and Secretary Haslett with reelection to their offices without opposition. Before the election, however, President Quarrier took advantage of the occasion to give the members some hard knocks for general lack of appreciation of the importance of the chamber's work, which has found expression too often in failure of the members to co-operate with the officers in undertakings for the benefit of the community.

The most important matter considered, of course, was the reappraisal of real estate values in Ohio county by Assessor Helmbricht, which has raised such a storm over that official's head during the past week. It was agreed that by the new valuations Ohio county will bear a burden of taxation entirely out of proportion with the other counties of the state. In 1897 and 1898, it was shown, this county paid one-ninth of the taxes of the entire state. That was out of proportion, of course, but by the new valuations the burden will be largely increased. The discussion resulted in the passage of the Brady resolution for the appointment of a committee of ten, one from each district of the county, which will appear before the board of county commissioners, and endeavor to have the excessive valuations reduced. The committee is empowered to employ an attorney to act with it.

Among other important matters considered, was the project of bringing to Wheeling this year the Republican and Democratic state nominating conventions. This came up in the shape of a letter from the Intelligencer, which inaugurated the movement, and resulted in the appointment of a committee that is empowered to go after the two gatherings. Chairman Waterhouse announced that the first meeting of the committee will be held next Monday evening, when arrangements will be made to go to Charleston the following Thursday, when the Democratic state committee meets to decide on the time and place of its convention.

Among the business men present were Messrs. L. J. Bayha, Martin Thornton, J. A. Lancaster, J. Adam Hess, Allen Brock, John Waterhouse, James Cummins, L. A. Rolf, John Beckett, W. Alfred Wilson, G. W. Eckhardt, Frank Hoffman, Col. Thomas O'Brien, H. Quarrier, Howard Haslett, J. C. Brady, C. A. Bowers, B. S. McDure, George W. Stamm, Frank G. Caldwell, Rev. Joseph Speers, Alex. Hupp, H. P. McGregor, Randolph Stalnaker, George Rentch.

Chamber's Annual Statement.

Secretary Haslett read a financial statement for the year 1899, of which the following is an extract:

DR.  
Balance, January 1, 1899.....\$1,296.41  
Memberships.....735.00  
Rents.....112.50  
Total receipts.....\$2,143.91  
CR.  
Dues, O. V. Imp. Association.....\$ 100.00  
Rents.....350.00  
Janitor.....25.00  
Stamps.....7.50  
Delegates to river convention.....102.50  
Salary, secretary.....100.00  
Printing, etc.....65.25  
Balance, January 1, 1900.....1,130.56  
Total.....\$1,943.91  
Membership, 143; in arrears, 70; dues uncollected, \$1,000.

Election of Officers.

Next, said the secretary, would come the election of officers. There hadn't been an election for a long time, he said, and there are four vacancies on the board of directors. Secretary Haslett, speaking for himself, and President Quarrier, felt that it would be better to make a clean sweep, and elect new officers.

Mr. J. C. Brady introduced a resolution, that the following officers be elected for 1899 unanimously:

President—Bullihen Quarrier.  
Vice Presidents—Joseph Speidel, J. D. Culbertson, Thomas O'Brien, Henry Baer and C. W. Franzheim.

Directors—Joseph Speidel, J. D. Culbertson, Thomas O'Brien, Henry Baer, C. W. Franzheim, H. P. McGregor, M. L. Ott, W. A. Wilson, John Waterhouse, J. Adam Hess, B. W. Peterson, L. E. Sands.

President Quarrier retired from the chair, and said he would not accept reelection. Temporarily, Colonel O'Brien was placed in the chair. Then Mr. Quarrier again addressed the meeting, and repeated what he had said before; that he had not had the support of the members for several years past, and he would positively not serve again with such lack of co-operation on the part of the chamber. Mr. Quarrier was quite emphatic in his remarks, and his audience winced as he proceeded to flay them without mercy. Mr. Quarrier instanced times of peril to the business community when he had found it impossible to enlist the co-operation of a corporate guard, notably when a recent legislation was about to pass an iniquitous assignment law that meant large direct losses to every business man in the

city of Wheeling, but notwithstanding this failure to give needed support a faithful few had secured the enactment of an assignment law as there is in the United States. On another occasion for so important a meeting as the river improvement convention at Louisville, it was doubtful until the day of departure whether Wheeling would be represented. Several other instances were mentioned by the speaker.

At the conclusion of Mr. Quarrier's remarks, a vote was taken on Mr. Brady's motion, and it was put through with a rush, and the gentlemen named above were declared the officers of the chamber for the ensuing year.

Mr. Quarrier said he appreciated the honor bestowed upon him, and he would again endeavor to give the chamber his best efforts for the ensuing year, though he felt like retiring in discouragement.

Wheeling Year Book.

President Quarrier, before taking the chair again, proposed the publication, under the auspices of the chamber of commerce, of a Wheeling Year Book, going into statistics of the Wheeling manufacturing district, extending from Belair to Mingo, and even beyond. Now is the time, he said, to get up such a book, giving data for the year just closed, which was the most prosperous in the country's history. Much information could be compiled, which would demonstrate to the country the great importance of Wheeling as a commercial and manufacturing center.

Before yielding the chair, Colonel O'Brien paid a high tribute to President Quarrier, who, he said, has always had the moral support of the community at his back.

Colonel O'Brien moved that President Quarrier and the chamber's board of directors be empowered to get out the proposed Wheeling Year Book. The motion went through with a rush. Mr. Brady suggested that the publication of the book be postponed until after the publication of the 1900 census, from which much information could be secured for use in the Wheeling work.

The Re-Appraisalment.

The Ohio county re-appraisalment was then taken up. Secretary Haslett first read a tabulation of figures, prepared by Cashier Alex. Mitchell, of the Mutual Savings Bank, of which the following is a synopsis:

	1897.	1898.
Valuation for state—		
Real estate.....	\$16,132,254.00	\$147,066,218.00
Real estate, per acre.....	6.44	6.52
Personalty.....	48,060,785.00	53,101,908.00
Total.....	\$16,132,254.00	\$200,168,126.00

Ohio county paid about one-ninth of the entire state taxes both years. The four Pan Handle counties, Marshall, Ohio, Brooke and Hancock, paid one-sixth of the state taxes. In 1899 Ohio county paid nearly one-seventh of the state taxes. Of Ohio county's taxes, 84 per cent was on town lots and buildings in the city of Wheeling, and 16 per cent on land and buildings in the country district. In 1897 the four Pan Handle counties paid taxes on a valuation of \$22,556,185, with the valuation for the entire state at \$194,191,068; in 1898 the four Pan Handle counties' valuation footed up \$33,741,615, and the state at \$200,168,126.

Mr. Brady said it was the fault of the business men that matters are as they are now. It is the duty of every man to look after public affairs. One man makes reappraisalment for county like this for \$300; no man could do the work in the time given, and no man who is capable will do it for \$300. The fault has existed for years; the whole system is wrong. Both political parties are afraid to change the system. The trouble is that the politicians, and not the business men run the state's affairs. Somebody here is responsible for a tremendous increase in Ohio county, while there is no increase in other counties. Mr. Brady read a letter from a Parkersburg lawyer, in which he complained of the high assessments being made in Wood county, about one-half or two-thirds of the actual value. In his own case the basis was fully two-thirds. He had information that the re-valuations in Huntington (Cabell county) were on a basis of one-third to one-half. Mr. Brady said some business property in Huntington was as valuable as that in Wheeling, yet Cabell county is assessed like that in adjoining agricultural counties. Marshall is assessed like Tyler; Tyler like Harrison, yet in Ohio county, through somebody's fool errors, property is put up to values near the cash values, in some cases to entirely the cash value, to more than the property would sell for under the hammer, in fact. The speaker did not know that the assessor was to blame; if he did his work honestly he cannot be blamed. The fault is in the law, and because the business people did not post the assessor to do as the assessors are doing in the other counties of the state.

President H. P. McGregor, of the board of county commissioners, was present, and addressed the chamber. He said that only one application had been received for the position of decennial appraiser, or rather that a second application was from a man who was ineligible to serve. Mr. Brady said he had no fault to find with the assessor; it's the way it was done. Mr. McGregor said the assessments had been made on a basis of two-thirds the actual value. He felt confident the board of county commissioners would heed any application made before them for the reduction of inequitable assessments. The speaker did not believe the commissioners would reduce the assessments to a basis of one-third actual value, when asked the question by Mr. Brady.

Mr. Brady—if you can make it two-thirds, why can't you make it one-third?

Mr. McGregor—We could make it

one-third, but I don't believe the people want it that way, or you either.

Mr. Brady—I think it is right to reduce as low as the other counties of the state. It is not right for Ohio county to contribute so much more than her just share to the state revenue. They have a good thing in Ohio county and they are going to hold on to it unless Ohio county adjusts matters. If Ohio county needs more revenue, increase the levy instead of sending a large part of the revenue to Charleston, as you will be doing by this increase in the valuations.

Mr. McGregor, replying, said the reappraisalment of ten years ago was inequitable. Residences were assessed on a two-thirds basis and business property was not, some being not one-half of their value. Ohio county has issued \$50,000 in bonds, and now we must begin paying them off. The question was, whether to raise the assessments or the levy. An increase of the levy would not be fair to many people. Many modest homes were already assessed their full value. The new assessments make the value on all classes of property somewhat equitable. As to the work of the assessor, Mr. McGregor said the time was short and the pay small, and some mistakes and inequalities were bound to creep in. The increases, he said, are principally on the improvement, not so much on the value itself.

A member of the chamber gave instances of increases on residence property. In answer to Mr. McGregor's statements, The City Bank was spoken of; it is assessed at \$70,000, and the speaker didn't believe anyone would vote that for the property except Henry K. List, who of course felt a pride in erecting this monument to his career of frugality and enterprise. When \$1,400 a year taxes is collected on this building it is taxing Mr. List's enterprise, declared the speaker. He felt that if it were the assessor he would want a year's time and the aid of another capable man, and short of that time he believed it impossible to make a fair and just assessment.

Mr. McGregor said the fact remains that the assessment has been made as the law provides, and any inequalities could be remedied by the board of commissioners through the personal applications of persons feeling themselves aggrieved. Speaking for himself, and he believed he could speak for the other members of the board, he believed the board would act in a just and fair spirit.

A member of the chamber said a raise in the levy could not be objected to. "You've given us a decent infirmary and good roads, and we cannot complain of you on that score."

Mr. Brady moved that a committee of ten, one from each district in the county, be appointed to correct the board of county commissioners when that body sits as a board of equalization and appeals, to seek corrections of the excessive assessments complained of; the committee to be empowered to employ a competent attorney. The motion was passed unanimously.

Mr. McGregor said he would appoint the committee later.

Mr. McGregor said the board could sit at any time as a board of equalization and appeals, within one year after the filing of the new valuations. It had been about decided that the board would meet on the 22nd of next month, but action could be taken earlier if found desirable. The members of the chamber who expressed themselves, desired action in the near future.

After the Conventions.

The project of securing for Wheeling the state nominating conventions of the Republican and Democratic parties, broached by the Intelligencer recently, was brought to the attention of the chamber in the following letter to President Quarrier:

WHEELING, W. Va., Jan. 16, 1900.

Mr. Bullihen Quarrier, President, Chamber of Commerce.

DEAR SIR:—Since beginning our campaign for bringing to Wheeling the Republican state nominating convention of the state, we have advanced from a stage of inactivity to one of promise. Through the efforts of Major Cowden, Ohio county's member of the state central committee, we have secured the location of the convention in Wheeling on February 21, when the time and place of holding the convention will be decided. We suggest that you, as president of the chamber of commerce, appoint a bi-partisan committee of citizens, whose duty it will be to appear before the state central committee and advance Wheeling as the site of the state leadership. We have already expressed ourselves favorably to Wheeling.

In this same connection, the Intelligencer, with several of the local Democratic leaders, who are of the opinion that their state nominating convention can be secured by Wheeling, notwithstanding the fact that the convention of 1896 was held here. The generous hospitality extended before has continued to a desire for the coming of the Republican and Democratic committees meets in Charleston on January 22, respectively.

THE INTELLIGENCER.

R. M. Archer, City Editor.

President Quarrier spoke of the importance, and benefits derived from having such large gatherings held here, and said he hoped the effort would prove successful.

Mr. Waterhouse moved the appointment of the committee suggested in the Intelligencer's letter, and the motion was seconded by Mr. Brock. It was passed unanimously, and the chair appointed the following committee: John Waterhouse, chairman; John A. Howard, Colonel Thomas O'Brien, Congressman B. B. Dovenor, State Senator N. E. Whitaker and Joseph C. Brady.

After the chamber's meeting last night, Chairman Waterhouse called a meeting of the committee for next Monday evening, January 22, at the rooms of the chamber of commerce, when steps will be taken to appear before the Democratic state committee, which meets in Charleston on the following Thursday. The committee will go before the Republican state central committee, when it assembles here on February 21.

Wheeling will find opposition in going after the conventions. Parkersburg is active in the campaign for them. However, Wheeling's superior attractions and facilities for entertaining such large gatherings, ought to land both here.

A New Cable to Cuba.

Acting on the suggestion of the Trades League, of Philadelphia, the chamber passed resolutions in favor of the project of the Commercial Cable Company of Cuba, which proposes giving a competitive cable to the Gem of the Antilles. The resolutions are as follows:

Whereas, the announcement of the Commercial Cable Company of Cuba, early in the year 1899, that it proposed to lay a competing submarine cable to Cuba, has resulted in the Western Union Telegraph Company reducing its rate from Cuba to the United States during the current year from four dollars (\$4) to one dollar and a half (\$1.50) for a message of ten words; and

Whereas, the proposed competition of the Commercial Cable Company is desirable, and it should be allowed to lay its proposed competing cable; therefore, be it

Resolved, That Congress be, and hereby is, petitioned to enact a law enabling competing cable companies to lay a competing cable from Cuba to the United States to Cuba; and be it further

Resolved, That the secretary be, and hereby is, instructed to forward a copy of these resolutions to the President of the United States, to each member of Congress, and to the secretary of war.

City Re-Assessment.

Mr. Waterhouse brought to the attention of the chamber the fact that the city's re-valuation of real estate for taxation will be made next year. He spoke of the importance of the chamber of commerce taking a hand to the

extent of having council name men who are fitted for this important work.

Directors Meet.

The meeting adjourned at 10 o'clock, after which the board of directors met and discussed several matters of importance, including the application of the committees in charge of the City Hospital Loan Exhibition to be held in the city.

The Smoky City at 8 a. m. The Dave Wood, John Mores and Iron Age at 9 a. m., passed up with empty yesterday.

The following coal lows passed down yesterday: Tom Dodsworth, 1 p. m.; Tornado, 3 p. m.; Coal City, 4 p. m.

The H. K. Bedford brought in a nice trip last evening, and cleared for Parkersburg at 7 p. m. with all the freight she wanted.

The Queen City arrived from below at 5:30 last evening, and cleared for Pittsburgh at 7 o'clock with a heavy trip of freight and people.

The Keystone State, instead of coming up to Pittsburgh from Middleport, where she laid up during the ice embargo, returned to Cincinnati and will come out this week on her regular day.

River Telegrams.

PARKERSBURG—Ohio river 13 feet 8 inches and falling. Weather, cloudy; mercury 35. Passed up—Ben Hur, passed down—Valley Belle. Due down—H. K. Bedford. Little Kanawha is falling. Locals on time.

OIL CITY—River 3 feet 10 inches and rising. Weather, cloudy and cool. WARREN—River 2 feet 3 inches. Cloudy and cool.

GREENSBORO—River 8 feet 9 inches and falling. Cheat ice passing. Weather, threatening and cooler. Adam Jacobs and Dewey up Wednesday; James G. Blaine down.

MORGANTOWN—River 8 feet 4 inches and stationary. Weather, cloudy and cool. BROWNSVILLE—River 6 feet 4 inches and falling.

PITTSBURGH—River 8.8 feet and stationary. Clear and cool. STEUBENVILLE—River 11 feet 9 inches and falling. Weather, cloudy and cold. Passed up—Bertha, John Mores, Smoky City, Iron Age. Passed down—Tom Dodsworth and Ford City.

AMERICAN TIN PLATE CO.

To be Permanently Located at Newark, N. J.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16.—The American Tin Plate Company held its annual meeting at East Orange, N. J., to-day. These officers were elected:

Daniel G. Reid, president; F. S. Wheeler, treasurer; W. B. Leeds, first vice president; William T. Graham, second vice president; Warren Arms, third vice president.

All the Chicago officers decided to take up their residences in and about New York, probably in March. They have practically completed arrangements to establish their plant at Newark, N. J. Their works will give employment to several thousand persons. The company will also do its banking in Newark. The three directors elected to-day were: William E. Reis, Richard R. Quay and James A. Mathews.

The financial statement was as follows: Assets, actual plant, real estate, machinery and personal property, \$48,404,508; merchandise, actual value to-day, \$14,931,925. Accounts receivable, all good, \$1,518,247; cash in bank, \$989,984; total assets, \$50,864,665.

Liabilities, capital stock, preferred, \$18,325,000; capital stock common, \$28,000,000; purchase money, mortgages, assumed, \$270,000; accounts payable, \$1,656,238; surplus, \$2,413,436; total liabilities, \$50,864,665.

ADVANCE IN WAGES

To Yard Employees of Pennsylvania Railway Company.

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., Jan. 16.—The Pennsylvania Railroad Company to-day announced a readjustment of the wages of its employees in the yards along the entire system. The new adjustment went into effect January 1. On the Atlantic City and Cape May divisions, it was said, engineers and brakemen are advanced respectively 35 and 15 cents a day with no reduction in working hours. The new scale with respect to the other divisions, is as follows, and carries with it a reduction from twelve to eleven hours a day:

Engineers, increase from 21 to 27 cents per hour.

Firemen—From 15 to 17 cents.

Conductors—From 20 to 22 cents (day), from 15 to 17 cents (night).

Brakemen—From 15 to 16 cents (day), from 17 to 18 cents (night).

Car droppers from 15½ to 17½ cents (day), from 16½ to 18 cents (night).

GEORGIA BANK CASHIER,

In a Fit of Insanity, Kills the Teller and Then Commits Suicide.

COLUMBUS, Ga., Jan. 16.—Captain J. W. Murphy, cashier of the Third National Bank, instantly killed Teller P. T. Shute this morning and then committed suicide. The murder and suicide occurred while the bank was filled with customers and the full corps of clerks.

Captain Murphy, who did the shooting, has been one of the most prominent business men of the city for a number of years, but of recent months he has been in ill-health and has suffered two strokes of paralysis.

It is believed he was temporarily insane when the shooting was done, as he and Shute had long been the closest of friends.

The evidence before the coroner's jury this afternoon shows that Murphy, presumably insane, placed the pistol close to the temple of Mr. Shute and fired. He then placed the pistol in his own mouth and fired twice, both balls penetrating the brain.

BUSINESS PORTION OF DAWSON

Wiped Out by Fire—Temperature Forty Below Zero—Much Suffering.

SEATTLE, Wash., Jan. 15.—The steamer Danube, at Victoria, from Skagway, brings news that a large part of the business portion of Dawson was wiped out by fire on the night of Wednesday last. A dispatch was received at Skagway on the same night. The loss will exceed half a million dollars. There are no names of the buildings or losses. The Skagway operator says that great suffering would undoubtedly follow the fire, as the temperature at Dawson was 40 degrees below zero, with the wind blowing. The city is without the regulation water supply.

10 Per Cent off on Groceries this week at the Little Market, No. 2251 Market street.

For Morbid Conditions take BEECH-AM'S PILLS.

